

F-4-85

John W. Wilson House
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1887-1889

The John W. Wilson House is a 2-1/2 story frame Queen Anne style dwelling built about 1887-1889, possibly by John W. Wilson, who is thought by the current owner to have been a physician. The house has a cross-shaped plan with projecting gables on each elevation covered with shingles, a one-story porch, a patterned slate roof, and the remains of a widow's walk at the central crossing. Outbuildings contemporary with the house include a frame well house, a frame smokehouse, and a small frame barn. A somewhat later frame garage and a non-contributing concrete block garage are also on the site. The compact, economical plan, built-in features, and unified exterior and interior trim strongly suggest the use of an architectural pattern book as the source of the house's design. Although the pattern books used in Frederick County in the last quarter of the 19th century are yet to be researched, these features would be evident in standardized designs produced for a growing housing market in the period.

F-4-85
John W. Wilson House
Middletown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Domestic/secondary structure/other dependencies
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes x no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John W. Wilson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 6824 Burkittsville Road not for publicationcity, town Middletown x vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>x</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>x</u> building(s)	<u>x</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>x</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>x</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>x</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Martin H. Van Westenberg and Rebecca J. Ropp

street & number 10430 Rum Spring Road telephone no.:

city, town Myersville state and zip code Md. 21773

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1279

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 224

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-85

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 5

The John W. Wilson House is a 2-1/2 story frame Queen Anne style dwelling built about 1887-1889 on the west side of Burkittsville Road just north of Broad Run near Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The house is set back about 50 yards from the road and has three contributing domestic outbuildings, a well house, a smokehouse, and a garage, and a small frame cow barn which survives from a small agricultural outbuilding group which has been demolished. A non-contributing concrete block garage and storage building is also on the property.

The house has a compact, cross-shaped plan with gables facing each direction, the principal elevation being the east. The wings of the plan are joined by diagonal cross spaces and bay windows and the east and south elevations have a one-story porch with decorative brackets which follows the planes of the facade from the east wing of the cross to the north and south wings. The exterior is covered with german siding and the gables are shingled. Pedimented arched windows are in each gable, as well as paired 2/2 windows flanked by louvred shutters. The window frames are molded with scroll-sawn aprons. The roof is patterned slate and four central chimneys rise near the central crossing which originally had a widow's walk. The platform of the widow's walk remains in place, but the railings are missing. The main entrance has a four-panel door with sidelights and a plain transom. On the west elevation of the house is a one-story shed addition, an extension of the kitchen. The interior of the house reveals small rooms linked around the central staircase, which is in a small stair hall. In the south wing of the house is the dining room, with a built-in sideboard. The wood trim throughout the main level appears to be oak or chestnut. The kitchen in the west wing has built-in storage cupboards and is the most altered space in the main floor. The economical plan, built-in features, and general unity of decorative work in the house strongly suggests the standardized designs found in late 19th century architectural pattern books.

Outbuildings:

Well house: The frame well house is a one-story enclosure of the well head and is located immediately adjacent to the west wing and shed addition of the house and was undoubtedly built at the same time. It has german siding and a vertical board door in the east elevation. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal.

Smokehouse: The frame smokehouse is located west of the shed addition on the house. It has one story and a loft with german siding and a standing seam metal roof. The double vertical board doors are located in the east elevation and 2/2 windows are located in the east and west elevations. The chimney is on the north gable end and is partially enclosed in german siding, with the brick stack projecting above the siding. The smokehouse is also contemporary with the house.

Garage: The frame garage is located on the north side of the entrance drive from Burkittsville Road. It has tongue-and-groove siding and a standing seam metal gable.

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-35

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1887–1889 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John W. Wilson House has an unusual plan and design which strongly suggests the use of an architectural pattern book as its source. The Queen Anne style house was built about 1887–1889, probably by John W. Wilson. Although no information has yet been found about Wilson, the current owner believes the builder was a physician. The 24-acre original farm suggests a subsistence farmstead, not one in which produce sales were the main source of income, which tends to confirm that the original owner was a farmer only as a supplement to another occupation. The features which indicate the architectural pattern book are its economical plan with built-in furniture in the main rooms and a plan with free access to all parts of the main floor, and the unified exterior decoration and finishes. While other Queen Anne houses are found throughout the Middletown Valley and Frederick County, most have a more ample proportion and larger interior spaces. The Wilson House, while having a well-rounded plan and exterior trim, is clearly based on economy and modest lifestyles. Identification of the pattern books known to be available in Frederick County during the last quarter of the 19th century is yet to be researched.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-85

Land Records of Frederick County

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 2 acres centered on the house on Tax Map 65, Parcel 24

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date June 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCL
100 COMMUNITY ACADEMY
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021

John W. Wilson House
Frederick County

SURVEY No. F-4-85

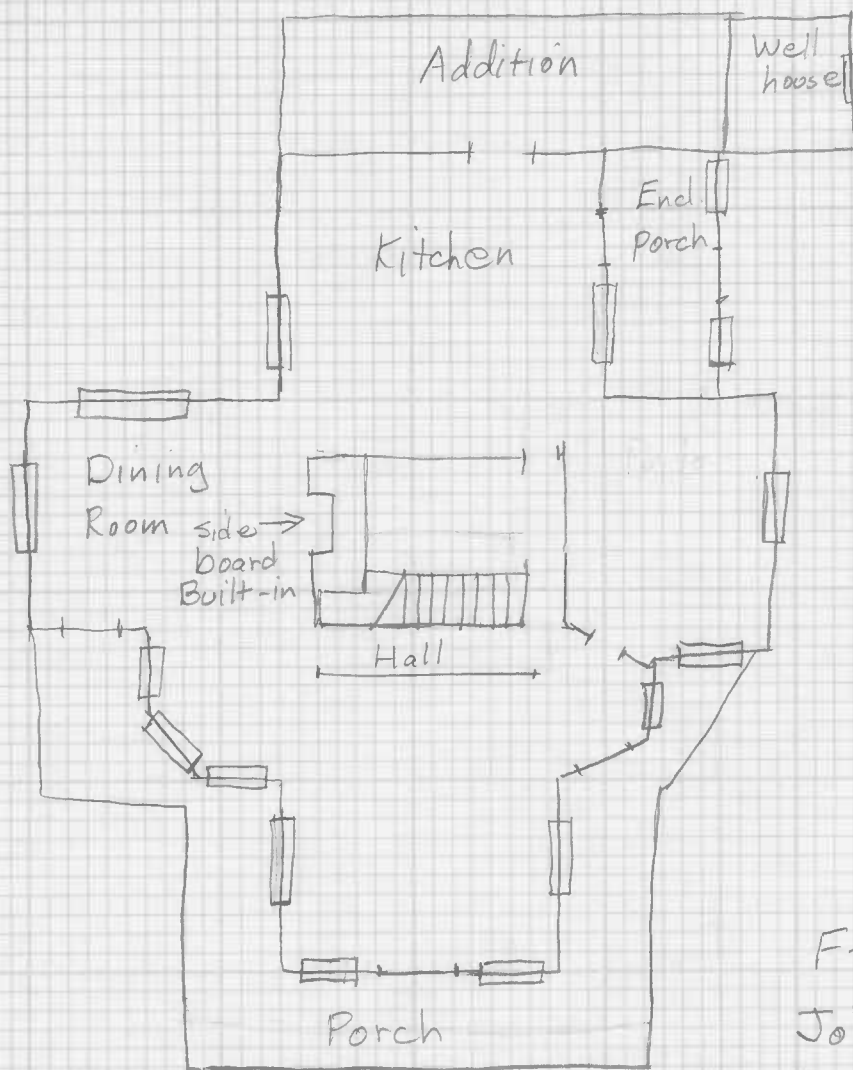
7.1 Description (Continued)

roof. The south elevation is open and the west elevation has an open shed, perhaps a wood shed. The garage may date from about 1910.

Barn: The small frame barn is located north of the domestic group at a distance of about 30 yards. It is an unbanked English type, with a small overhang on the east elevation. The vertical siding is painted white and is deteriorated. Three dutch doors are located on the stall level on the east side. The gable roof is standing seam metal. The barn is probably the same date as the house.

LIBER/F. 10	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1279/224 7 Feb 85	Martin H. Van Westenberg + Rebecca Jane Ropp (bro & sis)	Martin W. Van Westenberg	24A. - 2A. to SRC. 22A.		
627/310 6 Nov 59	Martin W. & Joellen M. Van Westenberg (Joellendice 6 Jun 70)	Elsie M. Harris	22A		
573/505 7 Nov 56	Elsie M. Harris	Harold A. Ahalt & Margaret L. Ahalt & Arthur M. & Mary Jane Ahalt	24A.		
399/28 25 May 35	Harold A. Ahalt et al & Mary Jane Ahalt, et al	Alonza J. Ahalt & Hattie M. Ahalt	24A.		
296/236 31 Mar 11	Alonza J. Ahalt	Elmer E. & Bertha M. Shaper	24A.	\$4,000	
STH 281/71 30 Mar 07	Elmer E. & Bertha M. Shaper	Columbus W. Boyer & Mary J. R. Boyer	24A.	\$3900	
DHH 5/588 30 Mar 1900	Columbus W. Boyer	John W. & Laura H. Wilson	24A.	\$2500	

LIBER/FOLIO	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
WIP 6/526 2 Sept 1887	John W. Wilson	Robert Wilson + Mahala Wilson	24a.	\$1224.68	
TG 3/460 15 Jun 1875	Robert Wilson	Michael Culler, trustee for sale of real estate of Samuel Soms	120a.	\$5.00	
23 Sept 1867	Samuel Soms	Isaac Michael			



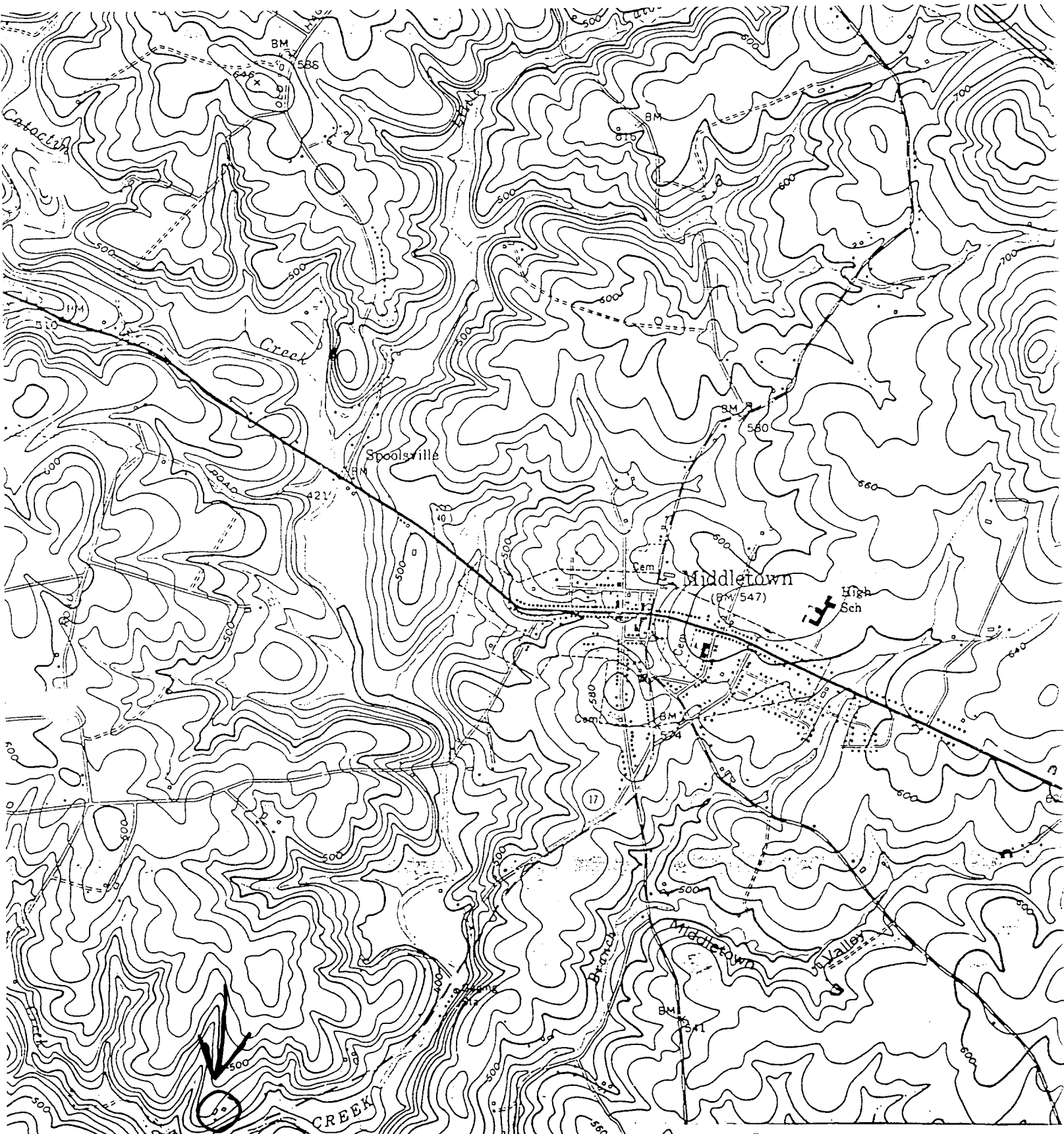
F-4-85

John W. Wilson House
Frederick County

Janet Davis

June 1992

Not to Scale



F-4-85
John W. Wilson House
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, MD
1:24000



F-4-35

John W. Wilson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Reg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crainsville, Md.

Northeast corner view

1/5



F-4-85

John W. Wilson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Northwest corner view

2/5



F-4-85

John W. Wilson house

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Chowersville, Md

Interior view of dining room

3/5



F-4-85

John W. Wilson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Brownsville, Md.
Smokehouse, northeast corner view

4/5



F-4-83

John W. Wilson House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO. Charnsville, Md
Cow barn north-east corner view

3/5